



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 8, 2010

Mr. Quincy Quinlan
Associate General Counsel
Texas Association of Counties
P.O. Box 2131
Austin, Texas 78768-2131

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

OR2010-13634

Dear Mr. Quinlan:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID#392871.

The Texas Association of Counties (the "association") received a request for the contract, bid invitation, and all documents related to the association's current contract for unemployment insurance services. You state you have provided some of the responsive information to the requestor. Although you take no position on whether the remaining information is excepted from disclosure, you state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of TALX Corporation ("TALX"). Accordingly, you have notified TALX of the request and of its right to submit arguments to this office as to why its information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d) (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permitted governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception to disclosure under certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

We note that an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). Although you state that TALX has indicated that it considers portions of the contract proprietary and confidential, as of the date of this decision, we have not received correspondence from TALX. Thus, TALX has not demonstrated that it has a protected proprietary interest in any of the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110(a)-(b); Open Records Decision Nos. 661

at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3; *see also* Gov't Code § 552.022(a)(3) (contract involving receipt or expenditure of public funds expressly made public). Accordingly, the association may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interests TALX may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the requested information must be released.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Burgess
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

VB/dls

Ref: ID#392871

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

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